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United States
Department of
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Forest Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

1993



Monitoring Report

for the Land and Resource Management Plan

Fiscal Year 1992

Wenatchee National Forest



NATIONAL FOREST

WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

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Dear Forest User,

August 8, 1993

The Wenatchee Forest Plan is three years old. It has established general direction for all resource management activities on the forest. It provides for forest protection and coordinated multiple-use management of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish, minerals, and Wilderness. Its overall purpose is the sustained production of goods and services for the benefit of the American people.

Monitoring is a key part of Forest Plan implementation. This report summarizes and highlights Forest Service monitoring activities for fiscal year 1992 (October 1, 1991 to September 30, 1992). This is our third Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation report.

As Wenatchee Forest Supervisor, I am responsible for ensuring that all forest management activities comply with the Forest Plan forest-wide standards and guidelines and management area prescriptions. The monitoring and evaluation program tells us how good a job we are doing in implementing the promises made in the plan. It will also tell us whether the various standards and guidelines established by the plan are realistic and achievable. At the same time, it will determine whether the standards are adequate to protect forest resources. It also identifies changes needed in the Forest Plan.

To keep you informed, I have prepared this annual "Monitoring Report" which describes progress made in implementing the Forest Plan as reflected by monitoring and evaluation. It will be several years before monitoring gives us a complete picture of Forest Plan results.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments regarding information in this report, a postage-paid response form is enclosed for your convenience. The response form also asks your thoughts about proposed forest plan amendments and possible projects which would help implement the plan. Inside the cover of this document are the addresses of our Ranger Districts and Supervisor's Office. I hope you will continue to be involved with the management of your Wenatchee National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sonny J. O'Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonny" and last name "O'Neal" clearly distinguishable.

Sonny J. O'Neal
Forest Supervisor

FISCAL YEAR
1992

MONITORING REPORT

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WENATCHEE
NATIONAL FOREST

W A S H I N G T O N



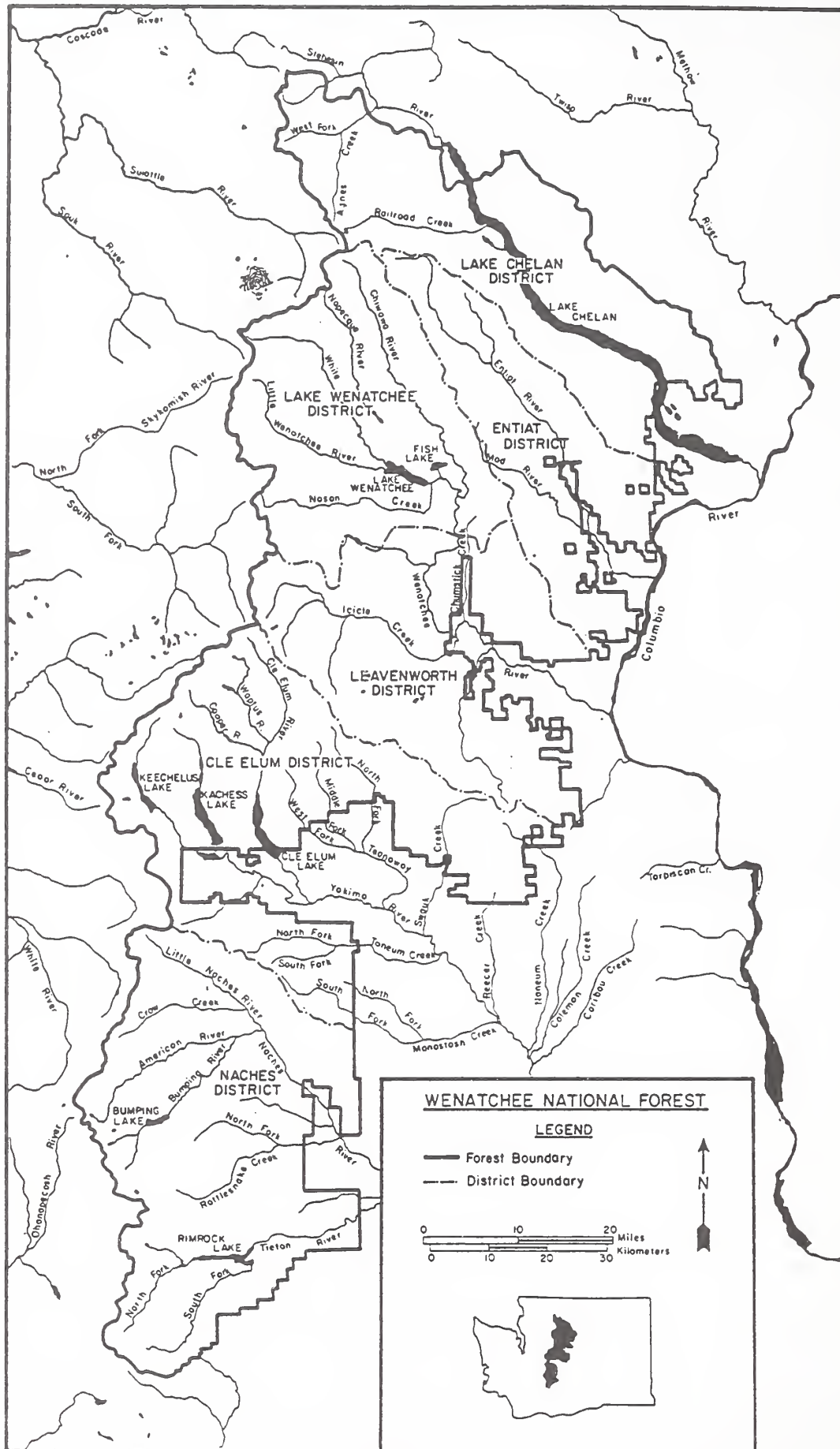
AUGUST 1993

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WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE MONITORING REPORT

The Wenatchee Forest Plan was implemented in 1990 after 10 years of analysis and extensive public review and comment. The plan meets requirements of a Federal Law, The National Forest Management Act of 1976. It provides standards, guidelines, land allocations and philosophy which serves as the basis for all Forest Service management on the 2.1 million acre Wenatchee National Forest.

The purpose of this annual report is to provide information to the Regional Forester, Forest Management Team, and the public on how well the Forest Plan objectives are being met. This and subsequent reports will be used to provide information for the annual and 5-year (1995) Forest Plan evaluations. At the five year point, a detailed evaluation report will be submitted with recommended actions for the Forest Supervisor's consideration. The monitoring and evaluation process will provide information to determine if:

- ☐ Laws, regulations, and policies are being followed, including those found in the Forest Plan Management Area Prescriptions and Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, the Regional Guide, and Forest Service Handbooks.
- ☐ The management prescriptions are producing the predicted Goals and Objectives or Desired Future Conditions of the Forest environment.
- ☐ Cost and annual budgets of implementing the Plan are within projected limits.
- ☐ The projected range of outputs is being produced and evaluate effects.

A number of monitoring systems are already in place to comply with administrative and legal responsibilities. Forest Plan monitoring does not replace these systems, but rather complements them by addressing specific issues and concerns identified through the planning process. It provides additional information for determining the effectiveness of the Forest Plan.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This year's report format is different then the formats used in the Wenatchee National Forest's 1990 and 1991 Monitoring Reports. A Regional Office review of all of Region 6 Forests' Monitoring Reports, plus new direction from the Washington Office, has resulted in a change in emphasis for the Reports. It was felt that a more standard format should be adopted to facilitate comparison of forests and simplifying evaluation of the results of Forest Plan Monitoring.

The Regional Monitoring Team has proposed a standard format and recommended monitoring items upon which the report should be focused. Due to the timing of the direction received in February of this year, the Wenatchee Forest has adopted as many of the recommendations and format as time allowed. Because all of the years monitoring was completed, and most of the individual specialist reports were written before receiving the Regional Direction, the major changes to the Wenatchee's report will be incorporated in the 1993 report.

Monitoring is done to measure progress in Forest Plan implementation. It consists of gathering data, making observations, and collecting and disclosing information. Monitoring is also the means to determine how well objectives of the Plan are being met, and how appropriate the management standards and guidelines are for meeting the projected Forest outputs and protecting the environment. Monitoring is used to determine how well assumptions used in development of the Forest Plan reflect actual conditions.

Monitoring and evaluation may lead to changes in practices or provide a basis for adjustments, amendments, or Plan revisions. Monitoring is intended to keep the Forest Plan dynamic and responsive to change and new information.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

This section includes a summary discussion and a table of those monitoring items needing attention from the Forest Supervisor and Forest Leadership Team. Group Leaders responsible for each monitoring item have recommended actions based on their evaluation results. The following categories of actions were used:

Results are Acceptable/Continue to Monitor

The results for these monitoring questions were either within the Threshold of Variability listed in Chapter V of the Forest Plan, or more than one or two years of data is needed to evaluate the results. For some elements, several years' data collection is necessary to evaluate questions of the effectiveness or validity of the Plan. Studies are being initiated to provide the baseline data and inventories necessary to answer these questions.

Change Management Practices

Areas where the results exceeded the Threshold of Variability for a particular monitoring item question in Chapter V, and an evaluation of the situation indicated the need to change practices to comply with the Forest Plan.

Further Evaluation/Determine Action

Results may or may not have exceeded the Threshold of Variability, but additional information is needed to better identify the cause of the concern and to determine further actions.

Propose Forest Plan Amendment

Areas where results were inconsistent with the Forest Plan objectives or the Forest Plan direction was not clear. The followup action requires either changing or Clarifying the Forest Plan through the amendment or revision process. Nonsignificant Amendments may be made by the Forest Supervisor. Significant amendments require Regional Forester approval.

The following table summarizes the followup actions needed for each Monitoring Question. Following the table is a brief discussion of each monitoring area where followup action is required.

SUMMARY TABLE

Monitoring Item	Results OK, continue monitoring	Change Management Practices	Further Evaluation	Propose Forest Plan Amendment
Recreation Opportunity Class	■			
Forest Trails		■	■	
Developed Recreation			■	
Dispersed Areas			■	
Wild & Scenic Rivers		■		
Visual Resource	■			
Wilderness			■	
Cultural Resources	■			
Rehab. Cultural Sites	■			
Coordination with Indian Nations	■			
Sensitive Plants	■	■		
Biodiversity			■	
Old Growth	■			
Old Growth and Mature Habitat Indicators	■			
Mountain Goats	■			
Deer and Elk	■			
Primary Cavity Excavators	■			
Proposed Endangered & Threatened	■			
Timber Offered	■			
Reforestation	■			
Suitable Timber lands		■		
Soil productivity		■	■	
Fish Habitat for Indicators	■			
Riparian Dependant Resources			■	
Cumulative Effects on Watersheds		■	■	
Forage Utilization		■	■	
Road Management	■	■		
Forest Fire Protection		■		
Prescribed Fire	■			
Air Resource Management	■			
Community Effects	■			
Resource Budgets	■			
Standards & Guidelines	■			

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations included below summarize the individual monitoring element evaluations contained in the following pages of this report.

RECREATION

☐ Trails

1. Continue to request more trail maintenance funds to keep up with maintenance needs.
2. Continue emphasis on restoring trails impacted by timber harvest activity. Use funds raised by the timber sales (KV funds) to do this work.
3. Complete the recreation use Environmental Assessment for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The selected alternative should help reduce resource impacts associated with the trail system in this Wilderness.

☐ Developed Recreation

1. Explore the option of selecting concessionaires to operate many developed sites under permit. Seven campgrounds will be under permit in 1993. The expected benefits to this approach are:
 - a. Campgrounds can be open to the public at a full service level with greatly reduced costs to the Forest.
 - b. The maintenance work needed at these sites will be completed.
 - c. Similar, or perhaps higher quality service can be provided to the public.
2. Vegetation Management Plans need to be completed for all developed sites, starting with highest priority sites. Unsound trees are susceptible to blowdown in the wind, posing a hazard to campers. Plans need to be implemented as soon as possible to eliminate hazardous trees, stop the spread of tree diseases, and provide an acceptable recreation setting while rehabilitation of sites occurs.
3. Continue to upgrade recreation site quality and amenities available through the Capital Investment Program, partnerships, and special programs such as the President's recreation initiative.

☐ Dispersed Recreation

1. Continue to monitor resource conditions including damaged vegetation and sanitation problems in dispersed areas. At the five-year evaluation point, conditions in these areas must be described accurately to determine if management actions are necessary. There appear to be some problem areas which may require action to improve resource conditions.

SCENERY MANAGEMENT

☐ Swauk Highway 97 Viewshed

1. To maintain scenic values, no vegetation should be cut from the top of Swauk Pass to Bonanza Campground, except to ensure public safety in campgrounds and adjacent to Highway 97.
2. Continue working with the Department of Transportation and permittees to minimize signs, structures, and roadside improvements.

☐ **White Pass Viewshed**

1. Specifically, expedite the final project at Tieton Dam sign.
2. Continue to work with White Pass Ski Company to improve signs and landscaping.
3. Continue monitoring Highway 12 to maintain the highest possible scenic quality by designing all activities to retain naturally appearing scenery.

☐ **Shady Pass Viewshed**

1. Identify areas adjacent to the existing old cutting units which require scenic rehabilitation before any further vegetative treatment is planned.
2. Consult Landscape Architects to provide an analysis of rehabilitation needs.

WILDERNESS

1. The initial site inventories need to be completed as soon as possible.
2. During the next revision of the Forest Plan, we need to revisit the indicators and standards for the Forest Plan and Alpine Lakes Plan.
3. The Forest should complete the Monitoring Guide to insure consistency in monitoring between Forests and Districts managing the same Wildernesses.

BIODIVERSITY

1. Future monitoring reviews of NEPA documents need to stress the importance of addressing this element in project planning and activities.
2. As more objective methods of biodiversity assessment become available, these methods need to be applied in project analyses.

SOIL, WATER AND FISHERIES

☐ **Soil**

1. Discontinue the practice of combined tractor logging and mechanical (tractor) piling together on ash/pumice and other susceptible fine texture soils.
2. Develop a Best Management Practice for skid trails which directs managers to designate and use the same skid trails on multi-entry activities.
3. Continue monitoring tractor logged and tractor logged/piled areas to see if they are within the Forest Plan Standards.

□ Riparian Management

1. Continue implementation monitoring and Supervisor's Office review of NEPA documents to insure consideration of Riparian Management objectives.
2. Continue functional assistance trips. This direction is included in the 1993 program of work and monitoring plan.
3. Through review of NEPA documents and functional assistance trips, stress the requirement to improve project planning and documentation by including site specific Best Management Practices (BMPS) in NEPA documents. Also stress the need to complete watershed assessments for projects which identify riparian management objectives when an activity affects a Riparian Protection Zone.

□ Water and Fish Habitat

1. Analyze streams exceeding maximum temperatures to determine if the cause results from natural factors, past practices on National Forest or private lands, or activities implemented under current Forest Plan standards. After determining the cause develop a strategy and timeframe for achieving the Forest Plan Standard or develop a new Standard as appropriate.
2. Address Stream temperature concerns in the project planning analysis. Any activity which could raise stream water temperatures needs to be carefully assessed with full consideration given to Forest Plan Standards and State Water Quality Standards.
3. Continue monitoring streams to determine how well they are meeting Forest Plan Standards.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

1. Take administrative actions to achieve desired forage utilization where standards are being exceeded. Actions include: reducing the season of use, reducing livestock numbers where needed, non-use of certain areas, closing pastures, and charging for excess use where appropriate.
2. Continue to monitor forage utilization to determine how well this Forest Plan Standard is being met.

ROAD MANAGEMENT

1. Continue to monitor as scheduled.
2. Conduct "Plan in hand" reviews of all proposed construction and reconstruction projects, involving the appropriate resource specialists, to assure that resources are protected and that appropriate mitigation measures are specified.

INDIVIDUAL MONITORING ITEMS

RECREATION

Monitoring Item—Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

The goal is to provide a well balanced array of recreation opportunities across the breadth of the ROS to meet the public demand for outdoor recreation. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are Forest Management activities resulting in changes in ROS settings so that end results meet the experience levels expected in the plan?*

During 1992, a variety of projects were reviewed to determine if management activities were done in conformance with ROS classes established in the Forest Plan. Projects were randomly selected for review by appropriate Forest Group Leaders and Resource Specialists. The following projects were reviewed:

Chiwawa River Road Construction
Chiwawa Horse Camp Development
Nason Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement
Rattlesnake Spring
McPlug Timber Sale
McDaniel Lake Sale Area Improvement Project
McDaniel Lake Spruce Budworm Defoliation
Rattlesnake Trailhead Construction
Angel Timber Sale Site Prep Broadcast Burn

The review of these projects included an examination of the environmental analysis prepared for each project, as well as the field inspection of the project area. These projects were all in various stages of completion, but no deviations were observed in either the planning or implementation of the appropriate ROS classes for the project areas. Work is being planned and accomplished in accordance with ROS Class designations.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Forest Trails, including Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Use

The goal is to manage trail use to provide recreation opportunity in a wide range of recreation settings and in harmony with other resource management objectives. The monitoring questions include:

1. *Are trails providing the variety of opportunities intended in the Forest Plan?*
2. *Is trail use occurring without impairment of other resource values?*
3. *Are trails with mixed users (eg. horse/hiker, hiker/ORV) meeting the expectations for all intended users?*

In 1992, Trail Maintenance focused mainly on logging-out trails as rapidly as possible with follow-up work in cleaning and repair of drainage structures, brush clearing, and some tread work. At the current level of trail maintenance funding, significant amounts of backlog maintenance needs are being deferred to the future. Constant public feedback tells us that getting trails logged-out is very important for access and ease of travel. Many users expect us to log-out the entire trail system each year.

From public comment, we are reasonably satisfied that the users are finding the variety of opportunities they are seeking. However, there is continued concern expressed by the public that more trails are needed, particularly outside of wilderness, and that trails continue to be impacted by various resource management activities.

Trail system recreational use continues to result in some impacts on soil and water resources.

In 1992, the Forest Service continued the inspection and evaluation of the condition of trail bridges. Many bridges in the Wildernesses are nearing the end of their useful life, particularly bridges that receive pack and saddle stock use. Bridges have either been repaired, replaced, or removed. Opportunities to ford streams were provided where bridges were removed. However, funding for trail construction is not adequate to replace all bridges that are in need of major repair or replacement.

There were 20.3 miles of trail constructed or reconstructed on the Forest in 1992. Three trail projects completed in calendar year 1992 and all were for non motorized recreation. They were Echo ridge X-Country Ski trail, Swuak Pass Discovery Trail and Kachess Interpretive trail.

No major conflicts were received as a result of mixed use on many trails. The Forest received 16 letters from the public regarding trail conditions and user conflicts in both the Wilderness and non-Wilderness areas. There also were a few verbal reports concerning horse/ORV/hiker conflict issues. Review of the letters, as well as employee field contacts with users, indicates there is no immediate need to enact further restrictions on motorized use of trails.

Monitoring over the past few years has shown that increased ORV use in roaded settings is resulting in unacceptable resource damage. Off road use by four-wheel drive vehicles, three and four-wheel recreation vehicles, and motorbikes is causing damage to meadows and other vegetation. User built trails are resulting in soil erosion. Several Ranger Districts have been planning area closures to correct this problem. Some closures will be implemented in 1993.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Continue to request more trail maintenance funds to keep up with maintenance needs.
2. Continue emphasis on restoring trails impacted by timber harvest activity. Use funds raised by the timber sales (KV funds) to do this work.
3. Complete the recreation use Environmental Assessment for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The selected alternative should help reduce resource impacts associated with the trail system in this Wilderness.

Monitoring Item—Management of Developed Recreation Facilities

The goal is to provide safe, well maintained, developed recreation facilities for the public commensurate with recreation demand. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are available developed recreation facilities meeting public demand?*
2. *Are developed recreation sites, areas, and facilities being adequately maintained to serve the public and protect resource values?*

Visitor use at developed recreation sites continues to be very high. Heaviest use occurs on weekends, nearly filling all sites. There is an excess supply of developed sites on weekdays, early and late in the season. The expansion of sites planned in the Capital Investment Program, and the schedule in Forest Plan Appendix A, will meet anticipated increases in demand.

We are still receiving requests from the public for more amenities at some highly developed sites, such as more RV Hook-ups and showers.

The backlog of heavy maintenance continues to grow even as our funding for maintenance is decreasing.

Inspection of developed sites has revealed extensive problems with tree diseases, such as root rots, in most of our campgrounds. Vegetative Management Plans need to be completed for all developed sites.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Explore the option of selecting concessionaires to operate many developed sites under permit. Seven campgrounds will be under permit in 1993. The expected benefits to this approach are:
 - a. Campgrounds can be open to the public at a full service level with greatly reduced costs to the Forest.
 - b. The maintenance work needed at these sites will be completed.
 - c. Similar, or perhaps higher quality service can be provided to the public.
2. Vegetation Management Plans need to be completed for all developed sites, starting with highest priority sites. Unsound trees are susceptible to blowdown in the wind, posing a hazard to campers. Plans need to be implemented as soon as possible to eliminate hazardous trees, stop the spread of tree diseases, and provide an acceptable recreation setting while rehabilitation of sites occurs.
3. Continue to upgrade recreation site quality and amenities available through the Capital Investment Program, partnerships, and special programs such as the President's recreation initiative.

Monitoring Item—Management of Dispersed Recreation Areas

The goal is to provide opportunities for dispersed recreation activities where compatible with other resource management objectives. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are dispersed sites meeting public demand?*
2. *Is the recreation opportunity spectrum providing the expected variety for Forest users?*

The Forest has a more than adequate supply of dispersed sites and areas in the roaded recreation setting across the Forest. If there is a shortage in this category, it is for areas adjacent to streams and lakes that are accessible by road. The existing areas are heavily used and resources in these areas are experiencing significant recreation impacts.

The biggest shortage of recreation opportunities are in the semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized setting. There are very few lakes in a natural semi-primitive setting that can be reached by motorcycle. There are users groups, such as Back Country Horsemen of Washington, who would like more areas and trails to utilize that are not as restrictive as Wilderness, but are in a natural state and a semi-primitive environment.

Dispersed recreation sites are deteriorating. Problems such as soil erosion, compaction, vegetation loss, sanitary conditions, and excessive litter are common on all Districts. Much of this use and related problems are within streamside riparian zones.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Continue to monitor resource conditions including damaged vegetation and sanitation problems in dispersed areas. At the five-year evaluation point, conditions in these areas must be described accurately to determine if management actions are necessary. There appear to be some problem areas which may require action to improve resource conditions.

WILO, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

Monitoring Item—Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

The goal is to retain the character and attributes of rivers recommended for Wild, Scenic, or Recreational designation. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are resource management activities along recommended river corridors being conducted in a manner to provide protection at the appropriate level of classification?*

During 1992 there were no projects implemented that had the potential to effect the classification of any river administratively recommended for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. A review was conducted of flood repair work implemented following the extensive flooding of 1989. All work reviewed did comply with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

SCENERY MANAGEMENT

Monitoring Item—Visual Resource Objectives

The objective is to manage vegetation and facilities to provide views that are consistent with the stated visual quality objectives for each management area. The monitoring question is:

1. *Do the cumulative effects of all resource activities within a viewshed meet the desired visual condition?*

Forest Landscape Architects reviewed one or more projects per Ranger District in order to assess the potential cumulative effect of resource activities on scenery. The Environmental Assessments (EAs) were reviewed in addition to a field review of the area where the project was to occur. During the monitoring of these projects the consideration of visual resource information was found to vary in EAs from very complete to incomplete. Deficiencies in the information were corrected using a checklist guideline for improving future projects.

The Swauk Pass Highway 97, White Pass Highway 12, and Shady Pass viewsheds were selected for summary analysis. Scenic resource analysis on these viewsheds indicated that the viewsheds vary from natural appearing to an altered condition.

Swauk Pass viewshed is in a natural to slightly altered condition throughout most of the travel route except for the altered condition between Swauk Pass and Bonanza Campground. Any additional vegetative changes along the roadside between Swauk Pass and Bonanza Campground should be kept to a minimum adjacent to the area of past vegetative treatment.

White Pass viewshed is in a natural to slightly altered condition throughout the travel route. Vegetative changes throughout the travel route blend well with the natural diversity of landscapes from the Forest boundary to White Pass. The scenic qualities of this viewshed are maintained at a very high level. Vegetation changes in the viewshed should continue to be monitored and enhanced to protect scenic qualities.

Shady Pass viewshed is in a slightly altered to altered condition. Currently a portion of the viewshed is being analyzed to find ways to improve the viewshed through rehabilitation of past management practices. Reducing visibility of existing roads, seeding roadside cuts and fill banks with vegetation, and blending new vegetation management with the old units are some techniques to improve visual quality. Disposing of slash piles and cleaning of old landings was done last year with success. Future vegetative management along the viewshed should be designed to soften the existing older units and to avoid adjacent units where openings do not improve scenic quality. Other vegetative treatments should improve or maintain scenic quality.

Recommendations and actions include:

Swauk Highway 97 Viewshed

1. To maintain scenic values, no vegetation should be cut from the top of Swauk Pass to Bonanza Campground, except to ensure public safety in campgrounds and adjacent to Highway 97.
2. Continue working with the Department of Transportation and permittees to minimize signs, structures, and roadside improvements.

White Pass Viewshed

1. Specifically, expedite the final project at Tieton Dam sign.
2. Continue to work with White Pass Ski Company to improve signs and landscaping.
3. Continue monitoring Highway 12 to maintain the highest possible scenic quality by designing all activities to retain naturally appearing scenery.

Shady Pass Viewshed

1. Identify areas adjacent to the existing old cutting units which require scenic rehabilitation before any further vegetative treatment is planned.
2. Consult Landscape Architects to provide an analysis of rehabilitation needs.

WILDERNESS

Monitoring Item—Recreation Impacts on Wilderness Resource

The goal is to manage Wilderness to perpetuate wilderness character, natural ecological processes, and to provide recreation opportunities appropriate in Wilderness. The monitoring question is:

1. *Is recreation visitor use resulting in change in the physical, biological, or social settings that approach the limits of acceptable change standards specified in the Forest Plan?*

The Districts are monitoring areas frequently used by recreation visitors. Two types of monitoring occurred in 1992: initial inventory of sites and areas not previously monitored, and monitoring of resource condition to compare with previous monitoring data for insight into any trends or changes in condition. In areas where monitoring indicated unacceptable changes had occurred, immediate action was taken to reverse the condition trend. Several actions were taken on the Forest. In the Minotour Lake area, monitoring indicated that dead, woody debris suitable for firewood, was depleted and users were cutting live whitebark pine for firewood. This area was closed to campfires. An extensive rehabilitation project was conducted at Lake Valhalla to restore resource conditions degraded by recreation users. These are examples of similar action taken across the Forest.

During 1992, work continued on the Environmental Assessment of the recreation impacts in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Several Districts reported that recreation impacts are occurring that are not considered in our Forest Plan standards and that revision of the indicators and standards may be needed. Standards for visitor encounters while traveling and campsite vegetation loss are difficult and too expensive to monitor. Adjustments need to be made in these indicators and standards for them to be workable.

The Forest continues to develop a Monitoring Guide for Wilderness; but this document is not completed.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. The initial site inventories need to be completed as soon as possible.
2. During the next revision of the Forest Plan, we need to revisit the indicators and standards for the Forest Plan and Alpine Lakes Plan.
3. The Forest should complete the Monitoring Guide to insure consistency in monitoring between Forests and Districts managing the same Wildernesses.

CULTURAL RESOURCES (Heritage Resources)

In this section two monitoring items are included in one monitoring results and evaluation section.

Monitoring Item—Cultural (Heritage) and Historical Site Protection

The goal is to the extent practical, to protect cultural and historical resources from vandalism, disturbance from project activities, and natural degradation. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are the National register characteristics of unevaluated and significant cultural resources properties being protected?*
2. *Are all reasonably locatable cultural resources being discovered during project area reconnaissance?*

Monitoring Item—Cultural (heritage) and Historical Site Rehabilitation

The goal is to rehabilitate damaged sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Monitoring question is:

1. *For sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, is appropriate stabilization or rehabilitation of damage being completed?*

Some of the activities related to Heritage Resource (Cultural Resource) management undertaken this past year include surface surveys conducted for all proposed ground disturbing projects (such as timber sales, trail, and road construction). A permit was issued last year, under the authority of the Archeological Resources Protection Act, to Eastern Washington University to test three archeological sites within the drawdown zone of a reservoir. Of these, two were determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. All three reservoirs on the Cle Elum Ranger District are being surveyed for heritage resources by a contract awarded in the early fall when water levels were down. Results of the this work are not yet available.

High Risk sites (significant cultural sites susceptible to losses or degradation) were monitored on affected Districts. All standing structures listed in or eligible for the National Register have yearly maintenance reviews. These include all of the Forest's historic administrative buildings and lookouts, all of the picnic shelters, and a number of the trail shelters constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Projects activities near heritage resources are routinely monitored to ensure these sites are not impacted by the activities. A total of 20 sites were specifically monitored to determine their present condition. Some of these sites are especially vulnerable to looting and the others are being extensively damaged by the eroding actions of the Wenatchee River. Over 75% of the sites located along the banks of the river have suffered substantial damage. The Forest hopes to undertake a study to determine ways to protect these sites if funding is received in future years. This study has begun in at least a small way through the accurate mapping of these sites and placement of stakes at several to measure the rate of erosion.

Documentation was made during this past year of a violation of the Archeological Resource Protection Act. The extent of looting damage to the site was mapped, and damage estimates provided to the Forest's law enforcement officers. Investigations are continuing with the hopes of reaching a successful prosecution.

A special use permittee violated terms of the permit by excavating a phone line outside the permit area. This unauthorized activity resulted in disturbance to a prehistoric site. The permittee returned a stone pestle to the Forest Service and paid for archeological work to determine the nature and extent of the prehistoric site disturbed by the excavation.

Elsewhere, Forest Service work also inadvertently disturbed a prehistoric site when two trenches were excavated near a small stream to hold small trees involved in a tree theft case. Work was halted until Forest Service archeologists undertook some test excavations and shovel probes to determine the nature and extent of the site. Further work occurring here will only be done by hand in order to prevent any further disturbance to the site.

On a more positive note, steps are being taken through a program of interpretative signing and education to protect the traditional root gathering grounds used by the Yakima Indians along Manastash Ridge. This area is very popular with ORV recreationists. The project will inform the public about appropriate vehicle use in this area, and warn them about the sensitivity of these native plant species.

The rehabilitation needs were also examined and documented in a detailed report for the American Ridge Ski Lodge, a CCC-built structure still in use on the Naches Ranger District as a group camp site.

There were 99,048 acres of heritage resource surveys for project activities during the year and these resulted in 56 new sites being recorded (42 prehistoric and 14 historic sites). This is a 60% increase of acres surveyed over the previous year. This increase is undoubtedly due to the inclusion of three very large planning areas which averaged over 15,000 acres.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

COORDINATION OF FOREST PROGRAMS WITH INDIAN TRIBES

Monitoring Item—Coordination and Communication of Forest Programs with Indian Tribes

The goal is to coordinate with appropriate Tribal representatives for all projects in which Indians may have concerns. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are American Indian rights being protected on National Forest lands?*
2. *Are projects with activities or areas of concern to Indians being coordinated with appropriate Tribal representatives?*

In addition to the involvement in projects undergoing environmental analysis in 1992, the Yakima Nation also cooperated in other areas of concern to the Tribe.

Tribal specialists helped in the development of the 1992 annual soil/water and fisheries monitoring action plan. They were directly involved in cooperative sediment monitoring on the Naches River and upper Yakima River.

Representatives of the Yakima Nation reviewed standards for an intensive watershed analysis on the Forest. During this analysis, watersheds are being delineated for individual study in order to define the existing conditions and to develop standards, where needed, to move the watersheds toward the Desired Future Condition.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue cooperation and monitoring as scheduled.

SENSITIVE PLANTS, BIODIVERSITY, AND OLD GROWTH

Monitoring Item—Maintenance of Sensitive Plant Populations

The goal is to provide appropriate habitat to maintain viable populations or enhance populations of all threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are sensitive plant species populations being maintained or increasing?*

A number of sensitive plant populations were sampled in 1992 including: Thompson's clover, Wenatchee Larkspur, clustered ladyslipper, pine broomrape, and Sierran cliffbrake. For most of these species, sampling has not been done long enough to draw any conclusions. Anecdotal information from the cliffbrake plots seem to indicate that spring burns may remove about 50% of the plants, while the growth of smaller plants appears to be stimulated. The general population appears healthy.

Concerning NEPA documents and protection of sensitive plants in general, essentially all NEPA documents address sensitive plants, and Biological Evaluations are completed for all ground disturbing activities to assure that sensitive plants are protected.

Recommendations and actions include:

Continue to monitor existing plots and to standardize methodology.

Monitoring Item—Biodiversity

The goal is to maintain native and desirable introduced or historic plant and animal species and communities. Provide all seral stages of all plant associations in a distribution and abundance to assure species diversity and viability. A desired future condition is to establish the local needs of management indicator species, rare species, and the proportion of seral stages that allows for natural diversity. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Is the trend of biological diversity moving as estimated?*
2. *Is the model for biological diversity being used on project and sub-drainage evaluations?*

Biodiversity assessment at the landscape and project level is still an evolving process. In order to get a better understanding of biodiversity concept to the project level, the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests and the Wenatchee Forestry Sciences Laboratory hosted a conference in November entitled “Managing Ecosystems for Biodiversity”. The objective of the conference was to demonstrate the application of biodiversity concepts to the ground in a “how to” format.

The Forest Plan calls for assessment of the effects of all proposed activities on biodiversity attributes in each subdrainage. This has been difficult. Assessment of biodiversity in NEPA documents has been subjective in nature, but it is being addressed more frequently. The majority of EA’s and EIS’s for large timber sales address the biodiversity issue directly. This is a considerable improvement from past years. The question proposed in last year’s monitoring report, “Is biodiversity being addressed in NEPA documents and protected?”, is still appropriate. It is being addressed in many documents, but it is impossible to determine whether biodiversity is being protected without some means of objective measurement. Many attributes important to the maintenance of biodiversity are also being addressed in NEPA documents including: endangered, threatened and sensitive plants and animals, old growth and/or old growth habitat, wildlife habitat, and noxious weeds.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Future monitoring reviews of NEPA documents need to stress the importance of addressing this element in project planning and activities.
2. As more objective methods of biodiversity assessment become available, these methods need to be applied in project analyses.

Monitoring Item—Old Growth Ecosystems

The goal is to maintain old growth forest ecosystems as needed for plant habitat, esthetics, and biological diversity while still providing appropriate levels of timber for commodity use. The monitoring question is:

1. *Is old growth acreage being retained at Forest Plan rates?*

The old growth habitat remained the same in 1991 and 1992 because there was no old growth habitat included in timber sales sold in 1992. Some individual old growth trees were harvested in association with road and campground construction or reconstruction. The three year harvest amount (1990 - 1992) is less than estimated in the Forest Plan due to the adoption of Habitat Conservation Areas and injunctions imposed on harvesting in Spotted Owl Habitat.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

WILDLIFE

Management Indicator Species Habitat

Management Indicator Species are plant or animal species whose population characteristics can be used to evaluate the effects of land and resource management practices on the habitats they use.

Monitoring Item—Old Growth & Mature Habitat Indicators:

Spotted Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Marten & 3-toed Woodpecker

The goal of the indicator species program is to provide habitat to maintain viable populations of all Old Growth and Mature habitat vertebrate species on the Forest. Monitoring questions for these species include:

1. *Are Forest Plan allocated sites being maintained?*
2. *Are established sites being used by indicator species?*

Northern Spotted Owl

Spotted owls were inventoried on a total of 262,378 habitat acres were within the Forest in 1992. Of these acres, 33,800 were inventoried in Habitat Conservation Areas and the remaining 228,578 acres were inventoried in association with potential timber sale projects or other resource projects.

Spotted owls have been found nesting at sites from 1,300 to 5,300 feet in elevation on the Forest. Feeding, roosting, and dispersal of owls is likely to take place at higher or lower elevations than nesting.

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL

1989	55	NA	72	NA	50	00
1990	116	6	81	NA	200	18
1991	146	24	60	98	95	29
1992	164	20	67	207	215	74
NA = Not Available						

Known owl pairs on the Forest continues to increase as more of the forest is surveyed intensively. The past year was a great year for reproduction on the Forest and the monitoring systems were better able to track this than before. Therefore, the number of young produced is much higher than in the past years.

Due to a refinement of owl habitat information, a 1991 remapping of suitable spotted owl habitat resulted in a increase from 521,000 to 562,715. New research is expected to modify the definition of spotted owl habitat, and the number of acres suitable for spotted owls will likely increase in 1993.

The suitable habitat for spotted owls remained the same from 1991 and 1992 because there was no suitable spotted owl habitat included in timber sales sold in 1992. At this time, the Forest is logging suitable spotted owl habitat at a slower rate than predicted in the Forest Plan.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Three-Toed Woodpecker, and Marten

Spotted owls, pileated woodpeckers, northern three-toed woodpecker, and marten are all indicators for mature or old growth habitat and are all affected by changes in this habitat.

PILEATED WOODPECKERS, NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS, AND MARTEN SIGHTINGS

Fiscal Year	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Three Toed Woodpecker	Marten
1990	125	9	14
1991	102	9	69
1992	55	5	35

There is a decrease in the number of Mature forest habitat indicator species sighted on the Forest the past year. This is due to funding being used to inventory spotted owls rather than for inventory of these species.

During 1992 the viability of Three Toed Woodpeckers was questioned. As a result, an estimate was completed by the Forest on the viability of this species using research and habitat information available. This research indicates that there is a viable population of Three Toed Woodpeckers on the Forest at this time. There does not appear to be a need to change the Forest Plan direction to provide viability in the immediate future.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Mountain Goat Habitat

The goal is to maintain or increase populations and to provide animals for recreation enjoyment. The concern is to maintain or increase sub-populations.

Mountain goats are commonly hunted and viewed on the Forest. Information on population estimate has not changed since the implementation of the Forest Plan.

MOUNTAIN GOAT			
Fiscal Year	Estimated Population	Acres Inventoried	Acres Improved
1990	1,600	0	0
1991	1,600	5,000	0
1992	1,600	2,550	150

Improvements in 1992 were accomplished in partnership with Chelan Co. Public Utility District. The improvements will attract goats to an area near Lake Chelan where they may be viewed from boats.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Deer and Elk Habitat (Big Game Indicator Species)

The goal is to maintain habitat capability to support populations identified in the Forest Plan and provide animals for recreation enjoyment. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are populations being maintained as predicted?*
2. *Is habitat capability being maintained?*

Estimated numbers of Mule Deer using Forest lands are 25,000 and Rocky Mountain Elk are 12,000. These are the same numbers estimated at the beginning of the planning period.

The Wenatchee Forest, Washington Department of Wildlife, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have completed a five year study of elk. The final report is available for use in project planning.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Primary Cavity Excavators (Indicator Species for dead and defective trees)

The goal is to provide habitat to maintain viable populations. Maintain number, size and, distribution of trees and snags to meet habitat capability objectives by management area. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are primary cavity excavator habitat and replacement trees being left in the proper numbers, sizes, and distribution?*
2. *Is the habitat being utilized as expected?*
3. *Are down trees being provided?*

The Forest has a partnership with Central Washington University and the Pacific Northwest Research Lab in Wenatchee to develop a method of inventorying habitat that results in a good predictor of Primary Cavity Excavator populations. The results of this 2 year study should be finalized in FY 93.

In 1992 there were 13,262 acres inventoried of the 1,550,000 acres of suitable habitat. In addition there were 63 structures installed providing improved habitat on approximately 147 acres.

Each year, forest managers have a better understanding of the habitat and needs of this group of species. Therefore, the number of improvements and inventories continue on a regular basis.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Proposed, Endangered and Threatened Species

Endangered and threatened wildlife species found on the Forest are the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, grizzly bear, gray wolf, and northern spotted owl. In 1992 the Marbled Murrelet was added as a species to the Forest and was listed as threatened for part of the Forest. All reports of sightings for threatened and endangered species were documented and in the case of spotted owls, grizzly bears, gray wolves, peregrine falcons and Marbled Murrelets were checked to determine the accuracy of the report.

The status of the northern spotted owl has been discussed in this report under the indicator species section above.

Monitoring Item—Bald Eagle Habitat (T.E. & S Wildlife)

The goal is to manage critical habitat to improve status of threatened and endangered species to a point where they no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are existing nest sites producing young as anticipated?*
2. *Are nest, roost, and perch sites being maintained?*

In 1992 nests discovered in past years all produced young and a new nest and adults were located. Unfortunately, one adult was shot and killed, two adults died of poisoning and two adults were treated for poisoning and released. This happened during the winter on private lands within the Forest Boundary.

The population of bald eagles, in both winter and summer, are increasing on the Forest. In 1992 three nest sites produced two young and there was one unconfirmed nest site. There were four known pairs now compared to two pairs in 1991. The Forest is moving toward recovery using the Forest Draft Bald Eagle Conservation Plan and the direction in the Forest Plan.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Peregrine Falcon (T.E. & S Wildlife)

The goal is to manage critical habitat to improve status of threatened and endangered species to a point where they no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are recovery sites being maintained?*
2. *Are sites occupied?*

The Naches Ranger District has been participating in recovery of the peregrine falcon for the last 4 years. The partners that have been working with the Forest Service are: The Washington Department of Wildlife, Boise-Cascade Corporation, Washington State Chapter of the National Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Peregrine Fund, Inc. The objective of this partnership is to re-establish peregrine falcons in the wild through a release process called "hacking".

The plan is to release peregrine falcons one more year in Naches area and begin releases in the Hoover Dam area in 1993. In 1994 the plan is to release birds on the Leavenworth Ranger District for 3 years.

PEREGRINE FALCON ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Year	Number Hacked	Nests	Number Young	Confirmed Sightings	Unconfirm Sightings
1988	0	0	0	0	1
1989	5	0	0	0	0
1990	5	0	0	1	1
1991	11	0	0	2	0
1992	6	1	3	8	2

In 1993 it is anticipated that there will be another nest site for peregrines established on or near the Forest. The population of peregrine falcons is increasing on the Forest and is expected to continue to increase for a number of years.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Grizzly Bear (Threatened Species)

The goal is to manage critical habitat to improve status of threatened and endangered species to a point where they no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are guidelines for the North Cascade Grizzly Bear Recovery Area being implemented as they become established?*

Approximately 65% of the Forest has been designated as a recovery area. The Wenatchee Forest has biologists participating on a technical team that is finalizing the recovery zone boundary, and developing a chapter in the National recovery plan that is specific to this area. In the interim, the Forest has adopted the interagency grizzly bear guidelines. Biologists from the Forest participated in training on the implementation of these guidelines. The interim guidelines will be in effect until the recovery chapter is completed.

It appears that the population of grizzly bears is increasing with 2 confirmed and 9 unconfirmed sitings in 1992. The population may have been at this same level for many years and we are just now understanding and gathering information to make the estimates.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Gray Wolf Habitat (Endangered Species)

The goal is to manage critical habitat to improve status of threatened and endangered species to a point where they no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act. The monitoring question is:

1. *Is habitat capability on an increasing trend?*

The Wenatchee Forest biologists are participating on interagency teams that are looking at managing gray wolves in the State of Washington. The Lake Wenatchee Ranger District is taking the lead to develop a conservation plan for wolves in Region 6.

There were 4 confirmed sitings and 32 unconfirmed sightings in 1992 compared to 5 confirmed and 24 unconfirmed in 1991.

Even though we assume wolf populations are increasing, we have been unsuccessful in capturing one and attaching a radio transmitter. There are plans to survey 5 areas in partnership with Fish and Wildlife Service and Washington Department of Wildlife in the winter of 1993. Hopefully, enough information will be gathered to capture and collar a wolf. The data from a radio collared wolf will greatly increase knowledge needed for habitat improvements and assessments of projects.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Marbled Murrelet

Until 1992 the Forest Service did not know that a portion of the Wenatchee Forest contained potential nesting habitat for Marbled Murrelet. Therefore, no surveys, calculations or assessments of projects had been completed. There are still no sightings of this species using the Forest.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Habitat for Species Identified as Candidates for Threatened Status

Species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered are identified as “sensitive” species within the Forest Plan. Sensitive species include bighorn sheep, Townsend’s big-eared bat, Canadian lynx, California wolverine, ferruginous hawk, Swainson’s hawk, and long-billed curlew. The common loon, Harlequin duck, red legged frog and the Western pond turtle are Regionally sensitive species that have recently been located on the Forest. The long billed curlew and Swainson’s hawk is thought not to occur on the Forest. Therefore, four species have been added and two subtracted to the list of sensitive species since the Forest Plan was completed.

The goal is to enhance habitat to prevent the need for listing species as Federally Threatened or Endangered. The monitoring question is:

1. *Is habitat capability on an increasing trend?*

Bighorn Sheep

Few forest management projects affected bighorn sheep populations or habitat. Maintaining viable populations of this species is difficult. A more intensive study is needed to determine what the limiting factors are for maintaining viable populations on the forest.

BIGHORN SHEEP

	Fiscal Year	Population Estimate	Acres Inventoried
Swakane Herd			
	1991	9	0
	1992	19	6,000
Clockum Herd			
	1991	1	0
	1992	14*	0
Yakima River Herd			
	1991	NA	0
	1992	50	0

* This population has been supplemented with additional animals in 1992.

NA = Not Available.

Townsend's Big-Eared Bats

The only known site on the Forest inhabited by Townsend's Big Eared-Bats is Boulder Cave on the Naches Ranger District. Surveys were completed on Jan. 8, 1992 and Feb. 20, 1992 at Boulder Cave. In August 1992 some large bats were reported seen in Brender Canyon on the Leavenworth Ranger District. These may have been Big Eared Bats.

BIG EARED BATS

Fiscal Year	Estimated Population	Acres Inventoried
1928	Hundreds*	3
1930	Hundreds*	3
1936	100-200*	3
1937	<75	3
1962	0	3
1988	2	3
1989	32	3
1990	32	3
1991	34	6
1992	57	3

* Reproduction Present

In 1992 we tabulated the historic trend of populations of Townsend's Big Eared Bats. This tabulation shows, that at one time, Boulder Cave had a good population of bats and that they were reproducing. For some reason the population declined. It is speculated that as recreation use of the cave increased, the bat population decreased. The reduction of bats could have been by direct methods, people killing bats, or indirectly from visitor disturbance.

Ranger District Biologists made an assessment of the bats and the recreational activities at this site. As a result, recreational activities are being modified and monitoring of the bat populations is occurring. It appears that the modifications may be working. It also appears that this species of bat is reproducing, but not within Boulder cave.

In 1992 an interim species conservation strategy and survey protocol was drafted by Mark Perkins for the Townsend's Big-Eared Bat on lands east of the Cascade Mountain peaks.

Canadian Lynx and California Wolverine

The wolverine and the lynx require large territories per individual, and are secretive and uncommon on the Forest. Therefore, gathering information is costly, difficult, and takes considerable planning. In 1993 the Forest, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Washington Department of Wildlife will be surveying 5 areas on or near the Forest for wolves during the winter. At the same time they will be monitoring for sign of lynx and wolverine.

In 1992, a wildlife biologist on the Entiat Ranger District was assigned the task of developing a processes for evaluating and assessing projects for lynx. The biologist has completed a part of this task, and will be sharing this with other biologists on the Forest in 1993.

Ferruginous Hawk

Ferruginous hawk populations and habitat were assessed for all timber sales. Habitat and populations appear unchanged. A Chelan Ranger District biologist is taking the lead for developing a Conservation Plan for this Region on this hawk.

This species is very uncommon on the Forest. One sighting was made in September of 1992.

Common Loon

Before 1991, the Common Loon was not known to exist on the Forest. In that year the Forest located some loons and began inventories and project assessments. Loon habitat is known to be present on Lake Wenatchee, Cle Elum, Naches and Chelan Ranger Districts.

There were 2,400 acres of habitat inventoried in 1991, with one nest verified. In 1992 approximately 750 acres were inventoried, two structural improvements installed and one nest verified. The estimated population of common loon on the forest is 18 in 1992.

Harlequin Duck

In 1992 forest biologists located some Harlequin ducks on the Wenatchee Forest and began inventories and project assessments. There are estimated to be 40 Harlequin ducks and about 20,000 acres of suitable habitat on the Forest.

Red Legged Frog and the Western Pond Turtle

Before 1992 the Red Legged Frog and the Western Pond Turtle were not known to exist on the Forest. In 1992 a inventory by Central Washington University located one Red Legged Frog on the Forest. During this same year we received a report of a Western Pond Turtle near Ellensburg, Washington. If these turtles are found near Ellensburg, they may likely inhabit the Forest.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary for candidate species at this time except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Other Wildlife

Monitoring Item—Hawk and Owl Nest Sites

The goal is to maintain viable populations and provide animals for recreation enjoyment. The monitoring question is:

- 1. Are nest sites being sites being protected during implementation of habitat disturbing activity?*

There has been no land allocation for these nest sites, but by using inventory data we will maintain roost and nest sites as needed to facilitate future nesting. In 1992, there were over 45 nest sites protected for spotted owls, bald eagles, goshawk, and barred owl.

The Forest timber harvesting activity has slowed considerably in the past few years. Therefore, there have been fewer nests encountered during management activity and less need to protect hawk and owl nests.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

TIMBER OFFERED, HARVESTED, AND RELATED SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Monitoring Item—Timber Offered (Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) and Timber Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ))

The goal is to achieve planned and assumed volumes of timber sold annually and for the planning period in ASQ and TSPQ. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Is the Forest offering the cubic foot volume (board feet in first decade) of chargeable timber established by the plan ASQ?*
2. *Is the Forest offering the cubic foot volume (board feet in first decade) of non-chargeable timber necessary to achieve the estimated TSPQ?*

In 1992 there were 27.1 million board feet of timber, and approximately 8,000 Christmas trees sold. There were several reasons for not selling the volume at the indicated Forest Plan average annual sale quantity level of 136 million board feet. First the adoption of the Interagency Scientific Committee Report by the Secretary of Agriculture, in October of 1990, requiring Habitat Conservation Areas for the Northern Spotted Owl, resulted in a reduction in available timber lands. The Record of Decision for the FEIS on Management for the Northern Spotted Owl in the National Forests indicate a 54 million board feet ASQ for the Forest with the adoption of the Habitat Conservation Areas. In addition, a federal court injunction banned the sale of timber from suitable spotted owl habitat until after a supplement to the Spotted Owl EIS is completed. Forest managers are evaluating the need for an amendment to the Forest Plan as a result of these reductions.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Timber Harvest Units (Size shape and Location)

The goal is to manage vegetation cover to meet direction on size of openings created by National Forest timber harvest. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are the Forest Plan Standard and guidelines regarding the size and dispersal of openings and condition of adjacent vegetation (eg. height of trees in adjacent areas) being appropriately implemented?*

All timber harvest activities on National Forest land met the direction on size of created openings.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Timber Harvest

The goal is to ensure that regeneration harvests are not prescribed for areas where average annual growth has not generally reached culmination of mean annual increment. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Are stands being harvested at an age and condition that produces the expected growth measured on an average annual cubic foot basis?*
2. *Is the amount of volume removed consistent with amounts sold?*

In general, all stands scheduled for regeneration harvest were at or beyond culmination of mean annual increment. In a few cases, small areas that had not reached culmination were included in regeneration harvest cuts.

Approximately 94.5 million board feet of timber was harvested on 8,093 acres of the Wenatchee Forest this past year. Revenue from timber sales was \$13,024,255 of which \$3,964,630 was returned to the local Counties for roads and schools. There were an estimated 1,405 jobs generated from timber activities. These estimates reflects data extracted from FY 92 Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System (TSPIRS).

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Silvicultural Practices

The goal is to ensure that silvicultural prescriptions are appropriate, effective, and consistent with resource objectives for each management area. Monitoring questions include:

1. *How many acres of each planned silvicultural practice have been accomplished?*
2. *Have silvicultural prescriptions met objectives desired for each management area?*
3. *Are managed stands growing at the rates estimated by Forest Plan yield models?*

Timber sales monitored in 1992 for silvicultural practices included some in the preparation stage, some in the sold but not cut stage, and some in the reforestation stage. Monitoring for growth and yield is difficult on recent sales. However, some estimates of expected yield were made on sales monitored to show a trend. Estimated results are that of 18 areas monitored, 7 are estimated to result in less yield and future growth than expected, 3 are higher than modeled, and 8 should produce as expected.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Reforestation

The goal is to minimize the amount of time between the removal of existing trees and reforestation with desired species. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Is stocking for each management area and silvicultural method achieved within the time frame established?*
2. *Have adequate numbers of trees of desired species been established to realize optimum growth for the management area?*

In fiscal year 1992, an estimated 1.8 million tree seedlings were planted to reforest 8,732 acres. Survival of planted seedlings was excellent. The first-year plantation survival from 1991 reforestation was approximately 92%. This is the second planting season where first year survival has been 92%, demonstrating consistently high quality reforestation.

The Forest is monitoring the average elapsed time from harvest to reforestation. The average time is less than three years. Planting of some individual units are delayed due to the limited number of burning days harvest slash is allowed due to air quality concerns.

In addition, 3,411 acres of timber stand improvement (TSI) work was accomplished. The majority of the improvements consisted of thinning removal of excess trees, and some fertilization and pruning.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Lands not Suitable for Timber Management

The goal is to verify that technology and/or other information has not been developed to justify reclassifying lands from a not suitable status to a suited, or vice versa. Monitoring questions include:

1. *Have the lands that were identified in the Plan as not being suitable for timber management now become suitable for timber management?*
2. *Is the suitable/not suitable land classification accurate as identified in the Forest Plan data base?*

Suitability of forested land to sustain commercial crops of industrial wood is being field verified within new timber sale planning areas. The primary consideration is the ability of a site to be reforested within five years. Ranger Districts will update suitable acre inventories on the Geographic Information System as the program becomes operational. Anticipated Forest Plan adjustments will also effect the suitable data base.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

SOIL, WATER, FISHERIES, AND RELATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Monitoring Item—Maintenance of Long-Term Soil Productivity

The goal is to manage the soil resources by implementing management practices that maintain or enhance productive properties. The monitoring question is:

1. *Is soil productivity being protected?*

In 1991 the Forest Monitoring team reviewed results of soil compaction testing done by tile spade on units in the Cougar Ridge Timber Sale. The spade method indicated that units on pumice and ash soils, which were tractor logged and piled, exceeded Forest Plan compaction standards. In 1992 six timber sale units throughout the Forest, including one Cougar Ridge unit, were selected based on suspected compaction, and tested using the soil core method. The results of the 1992 sampling were similar to the spade method, in that the core method also indicated that compaction in the units exceeded the Forest Plan Standards.

One unit, on the High Spud Timber Sale, which was tractor logging only, resulted in 13% of that unit compacted. This is within the Forest Plan standard of leaving a minimum of 80% of an activity area in a non-compacted condition.

The sampling was subjective by selecting units already sampled with indications of compaction. However, the testing does show that certain types of multiple actions, such as tractor harvest and tractor residue piling on ash/pumice and other susceptible soils, can cause compaction which exceed standards developed in the Forest Plan. The monitoring also indicated that multiple entries, which cause new skid trails for each entry, compacts soils in excess of Plan standards.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. *Discontinue the practice of combined tractor logging and mechanical (tractor) piling together on ash/pumice and other susceptible fine texture soils.*
2. *Develop a Best Management Practice for skid trails which directs managers to designate and use the same skid trails on multi-entry activities.*
3. *Continue monitoring tractor logged and tractor logged/piled areas to see if they are within the Forest Plan Standards.*

Monitoring Item—Fish Habitat Trends for Management Indicator Species

The goal is to maintain or enhance fish habitat capability to at least retain existing capability. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are the habitat trends for Management Indicator Species stable to improving, based on fish production objectives (anadromous) and habitat capability (resident)?*

In cooperation with the Washington Department of Wildlife, the Forest has been monitoring bull trout since 1989. Surveys for presence of bull trout were conducted on a total of 7 drainages in September and October of 1992. Portions of four drainages were snorkeled, while three drainages were walked looking for migratory adults.

Although no bull trout were observed while snorkeling in four of the drainages, bull trout have been captured or observed in two of those drainage systems. Further investigation will be conducted in drainages where they are suspected to occur. If populations do exist, they are at a very low level and widely dispersed.

Spawning surveys were made on 9 streams within 7 additional drainages where bull trout presence was already known to occur. During spawning surveys the number of spawning redds are counted and the numbers of adult bull trout observed are recorded.

Spawning surveys have not been conducted for a long enough time period to draw many conclusions. Where surveys have been conducted for any length of time, results are highly variable.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Effects of Forest Management on Riparian Dependent Resources Including Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

The goal is to provide riparian habitat as specified in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines to meet water quality, fish and wildlife habitat. The monitoring question is:

1. *Is project implementation resulting in expected conditions for riparian areas?*

This past, year Forest Fisheries Biologists and/or Hydrologists were to review all fish and watershed input into the NEPA analysis, for proposed actions, to determine if input is being made to required analysis steps. In addition, functional assistance trips were scheduled to review implementation and monitoring accomplishments. Thirteen timber sales, one new campground construction project, and one lake rehabilitation project, were formally reviewed on three Ranger Districts. For most of the activities, an office review of the NEPA document was made along with a review of the contract specifications, and then a field review was conducted during visits to the project area.

Based on the these reviews the following results were noted:

1. Fisheries and watershed personnel appear to be consistent across the Forest in correctly assessing effects of implemented projects.
2. In several cases project planning has been deficient in identifying riparian management objectives based upon conditions in the project area, and identification of site-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Continue implementation monitoring and Supervisor's Office review of NEPA documents to insure consideration of Riparian Management objectives.
2. Continue functional assistance trips. This direction is included in the 1993 program of work and monitoring plan.
3. Through review of NEPA documents and functional assistance trips, stress the requirement to improve project planning and documentation by including site specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) in NEPA documents. Also stress the need to complete watershed assessments for projects which identify riparian management objectives when an activity affects a Riparian Protection Zone.

Monitoring Item—Cumulative Effects of Forest Management Activities on Watershed Condition and Fish Habitat

The goal is to manage the soil resource of the Forest by using management practices that will maintain or enhance its productive properties. Maintain watershed condition to ensure meeting or exceeding State water quality standards. Maintain and improve current and long-term fish habitat capability. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are activities being scheduled in time and space in a manner that minimizes the potential for adverse cumulative effects on watershed condition and fish habitat?*

Monitoring emphasis for 1992 was to concentrate on stream temperature monitoring by placing min-max thermometers at 93 sites, and recording thermographs at 18 sites on the forest. In addition min-max stations were located upstream and downstream of two logging activity sites to monitor the effects of riparian timber harvest on stream temperatures. No results were obtained from the thermograph sites at Lake Wenatchee, Leavenworth, Entiat, or Chelan due to equipment failure. The maximum temperature standard was not exceeded at any of the min-max thermometer sites on the Entiat and Chelan Ranger Districts.

Sixteen sampled streams on the Cle Elum Ranger District exceeded the maximum temperature standard of 61°F. Results from monitoring at the same site for two years at Little Creek on the Cle Elum District, showed that the maximum temperature standard was not exceeded in 1991, but was exceeded in 1992. Whether this change was due to continued drought or logging on private lands in the upper watershed in late 1991 has not been assessed.

Most of the sites measured on the Naches Ranger District exceeded the 61°F for at least one recording period. Reasons for the observed temperature regimes need to be addressed during watershed analysis and project planning. It is possible that the temperature standards, in some cases, are exceeded due to natural conditions and a more realistic standard may need to be adopted for those streams. A second reason for the increase in days exceeding standard may be due to continued drought. Many of the sites exceeding standards could be due to past practices on both private and National Forest land, although an analysis of potential increases due to changes in management activities has not been done.

Monitoring the effects of riparian timber harvest on Short and Dirty Creek and Gold Creek showed an increase in stream temperatures after timber harvest. The Gold Creek sites showed an increase of 8.1°F which resulted in stream temperatures exceeding the maximum temperature standard of 61°. On Short and Dirty Creek, the increase in stream temperatures, which could be attributed to riparian timber harvest, have been 8°F in 1990, 5.7°F in 1991, and 2.5°F in 1992 respectively. While in no case has the 61°F temperature standard been exceeded, State standards limiting increases to 2.8°F were exceeded in two years. The decrease in temperature in the last two years could be due to recovery of riparian vegetation after logging. However, this requires further study.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Analyze streams exceeding maximum temperatures to determine if the cause results from natural factors, past practices on National Forest or private lands, or activities implemented under current Forest Plan standards. After determining the cause develop a strategy and timeframe for achieving the Forest Plan Standard or develop a new Standard as appropriate.
2. Address Stream temperature concerns in the project planning analysis. Any activity which could raise stream water temperatures needs to be carefully assessed with full consideration given to Forest Plan Standards and State Water Quality Standards.
3. Continue monitoring streams to determine how well they are meeting Forest Plan Standards.

RANGE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Monitoring Item —Forage Utilization

The goal is to provide opportunities to enhance other resource value through the use of livestock to shape desired plant communities. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are the forage utilization levels consistent with goals for riparian and upland areas?*

In 1992, the grazing season was affected by extended drought that occurred over much of the Pacific Northwest. The key use grazing areas on the forest, occurring on lower elevations, were stressed due to summer temperatures and low soil moisture resulting in a shortage in supply of forage. Grazing utilization monitoring was completed on 12 out of 24 active allotments. Of the 29 utilization estimates recorded, 18 exceeded the maximum 50% utilization standard in the Forest Plan. In one case it was noted that elk use ranged from 10-20% prior to the domestic livestock turn on date. In some cases administrative actions have already been implemented and in others continued monitoring will determine if grazing levels should be adjusted. Administrative actions already taken include:

Conversion of use from cattle to sheep to protect riparian and wet meadow areas on two allotments.

Requiring permittees to remove their livestock early from five grazing allotments.

Closing two pastures and reducing numbers from 88 head to 52 head for the 1993 grazing season on one allotment.

Resting one area for 4 years to facilitate the watershed improvements completed in Mitchell Creek during 1991 and 1992.

Actual use was reduced on one allotment from 529 permitted livestock to 285 in 1992. Further reductions in late summer/fall use is anticipated to protect riparian vegetation.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Take administrative actions to achieve desired forage utilization where standards are being exceeded. Actions include: reducing the season of use, reducing livestock numbers where needed, non-use of certain areas, closing pastures, and charging for excess use where appropriate.
2. Continue to monitor forage utilization to determine how well this Forest Plan Standard is being met.

ROAD MANAGEMENT

Monitoring Item—Road Mileage and Management

The goal is to plan, design, operate, and maintain a safe, economical transportation system providing efficient access for the movement of people and materials involved in the use and protection of National Forest Lands. The monitoring questions include:

1. *Does the transportation system serve the intended resource objectives for the management area?*
2. *How do the miles of road constructed estimated in Forest Plan schedules compare with actual construction?*

The monitoring of projects in FY 92 indicates that the roads are serving the intended resource objectives for the management areas. The trend for road construction and maintenance will be toward increased mitigation of environmental impacts primarily through efforts to reduce sedimentation. We expect to increase the amount of revegetation of disturbed sites, increase rock and paving of road surfaces, and increase surface water management.

The forest is currently involved in a comprehensive analysis of access and travel management needs and the updating of the road inventory. We expect a trend to fewer total miles of road and a decrease in road density. Some 250 miles of road have been obliterated within the forest in the past two years.

The estimated average annual output for Arterial and Collector road construction and reconstruction in the Forest Plan is 18 miles per year. The actual accomplishment for FY 92 was 18.3 miles.

The estimated average annual output for Timber Purchaser Road Construction is 83 miles. The actual accomplishment for FY 92 was 9 miles. The amount of road construction and reconstruction by Timber Purchasers is entirely dependent upon the amount and location of the timber contracted for harvesting. The difference in the planned output and the actual output was caused by: a decreased suitable timber land base with the adoption of Habitat Conservation Areas, and court injunctions related to the controversy over the Northern Spotted Owl.

Recommendations and actions include:

1. Continue to monitor as scheduled.
2. Conduct "Plan in hand" reviews of all proposed construction and reconstruction projects involving the appropriate resource specialists to assure that resources are protected and that appropriate mitigation measures are specified.

INSECT AND DISEASE

Monitoring Item—Insect and Disease Control

The goal is to assure that management practices do not contribute to increases in the incidence of destructive insects and diseases such as spruce budworm, Douglas-fir tussock moth, pine beetle, mistletoe, root rots, and others. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are destructive insect and disease organisms remaining below potentially damaging levels following management activities?*

The annual Aerial Insect Survey Maps were reviewed and sent to the Districts. A general increase in insect-caused tree mortality was indicated, especially in grand fir stands.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Monitoring Item—Forest Fire Protection

The goal is to provide protection from wildfire for forest users, improvements, and forest resources in an efficient manner. The monitoring questions include:

1. *Are implemented fire suppression strategies adequately protecting the public, improvements, and forest resources?*
2. *Are costs of protection in line with those projected by the National Fire Management Analysis System?*

Fire suppression is a major portion of the workload on the Wenatchee National Forest every summer. However, the summer of 1992 turned out to be rather quiet, with 64 lightning caused fires and 70 human caused fires burned a total of 113 acres. The number of acres burned is very low as compared to recent years. The largest fire of the season was a lightning caused fire on the Naches Ranger District. It was one of several fires in the “Rimrock Complex” which was managed by one of the Forest’s Incident Management teams.

This was the first year of operation for the Central Washington Interagency Communications Center (CWICC). This facility provided fire dispatching services for both the South East Region of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Wenatchee National Forest. This center should provide more cost effective dispatching services and more efficiently use the fire fighting resources of both agencies.

Fire suppression resources assisted other agencies on many fires across the state of Washington and throughout the Western United States. The Forest continued to host several fire suppression resources intended for use nation wide. These include an Interagency Hotshot Firefighter Crew based at the Entiat Ranger District, a helicopter crew with rappelling capability based on the Chelan Ranger District, and two large Air Tankers and one Lead Plane stationed at the Wenatchee Tanker Base located at Pangborn Field. A large cache of fire suppression equipment is also housed at the Pangborn facility and was used extensively.

Forest managers continue to organize for each fire season by encouraging employees to participate on Type II Overhead Teams and by ensuring all fire fighters receive appropriate initial attack training.

In addition to the fire suppression program, strong programs were maintained in fire detection and prevention. These activities are viewed as essential elements of the fire management program and produced results which made the overall fire protection program very successful in 1992.

Recommendations and actions:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Use of Prescribed Fire

The goal is to provide appropriate, efficient application of prescribed fire in support of the Forest Management Program. The monitoring questions include:

1. *Are the acres being treated with prescribed fire meeting expected resource management objectives?*
2. *Are forest fuel loadings exceeding natural levels and therefore placing Forest users, improvements, and/or resource values at risk?*

The use of fire as a tool to manage unwanted vegetation and debris, and to prepare areas for the planting of new trees, continued to be a significant portion of the work for Forest personnel. During this fiscal year, our reports indicate that 4171 acres were treated with prescribed fire in 296 separate units. Most of this activity occurred in the spring in an attempt to decrease the amount of smoke produced. During the fall the burning of piled material was the primary activity. Prescribed fire was also used to improve approximately 200 acres of winter habitat for deer.

Our statistics indicate that the number of separate applications of prescribed fire is increasing while the size of the area is decreasing. In Fiscal Year 1992 just over 500 acres less burning occurred than in FY 91.

Work continued on the revision of the Prescribed Natural Fire Plan for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. It is anticipated that approval will be obtained in 1993 and that implementation will occur as funds are available.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

AIR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Monitoring Item—Air Resource Management

The goal is to maintain air quality in conjunction with all cooperating agencies. The monitoring questions include:

1. *Are the impacts on air quality being considered in the management activities being proposed?*
2. *Is the Forest in compliance with direction outlined in the Clean Air Act, the Washington State Implementation Plan, and National Forest Policy?*

During this fiscal year additional efforts were made to improve the quality of the information regarding the management of air as a resource. Guidelines for the preparation of documents for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were distributed to the districts.

Additional work has occurred during the past year on completing the required documentation for defining the Air Quality Related Values for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. This task is now being completed by an Air Resource Specialist assigned to the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests.

In August the Forest began paying the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for permits to burn forest debris. This change was mandated by the revision of the Clean Air Act and subsequent State Implementation Plan. In the last three months of calendar year 1992 the Forest paid \$9,920.00 to obtain permits for our prescribed burning activities.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

COMMUNITY EFFECTS, AND RESOURCE BUDGETS

Monitoring Item—Community Effects

The goal is to provide local communities with a constant source of opportunity for the use of goods and services that provide for desired community growth. Changes in the kinds of business opportunities available today are likely over time. The monitoring questions include:

1. *Are payments to counties changing?*
2. *Are local populations changing?*
3. *Are local employment patterns changing?*
4. *Are lifestyles, attitudes, beliefs, or values changing?*
5. *Are Forest contributions to area forest products industries changing?*

In 1992, the third year for implementation of the Forest Plan, there have been many potential social and economic effects on Forest Plan implementation, the most notable being the management requirements for the northern spotted owl.

During this period, Chelan County showed a reduction in lumber and wood products employment of almost 53 percent, while Kittitas County declined 12 percent. Yakima County showed an increase of 17 percent.

The high quality natural environment found on the Wenatchee National Forest is one reason for the rapid growth and in-migration into eastern Washington. The Wenatchee National Forest is one important part of the quality of life in eastern Washington.

Changes in Payments to Counties

The following are payments to counties during Fiscal Year 1992. By law, twenty-five percent of the revenues collected by the Forest Service from the use of National Forest system lands and resources are returned to the counties as a source of funds for schools and roads. In Washington State, half the funds (school portion) are redistributed throughout the state, while the road portion remains within the county.

Most of the receipts are the result of timber sales. The final payments were computed under a provision of the Interior and Related Agencies 1992 Appropriation Act. Section 316 of that Act provides for payments to States and Counties of not less than 90 percent of the five-year average payments for Fiscal Years 1986-90 for those National Forests affected by decision by decisions on the northern spotted owl. This provision has delayed the effect of declining timber harvest revenues, resulting in \$1,1 million of additional payments to Chelan, Kittitas and Yakima Counties in 1992.

PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

	FY-91 PAYMENT	FY-92 PAYMENT	'92 PAYMENT IF BASED ON ACTUAL RECEIPTS
CHELAN COUNTY	\$ 2,144,756.14	\$ 2,061,905.09	\$ 1,285,963.75
DOUGLAS COUNTY	\$ 2.99	\$ 2.86	\$ 1.79
KITTITAS COUNTY	\$ 885,707.05	\$ 790,851.86	\$ 598,780.25
YAKIMA COUNTY	\$ 3,351,123.98	\$ 2,674,761.01	\$ 2,564,968.80
	\$ 6,392,590.16	\$ 5,527,520.62	\$ 4,449,714.49

Change in Local Population

This past year showed a continuation of the significant population growth that started in 1989. Chelan, Douglas, and Kittitas Counties showed strong in-migration, while most of Yakima County's growth was due to births.

COUNTY	LOCAL BIRTHS minus DEATHS		NET MIGRATION	
	(1990-1991)	(1991-1992)	(1990-1991)	(1991-1992)
CHELAN	402	841	548	1,509
DOUGLAS	158	482	1,137	1,213
KITTITAS	85	233	590	842
YAKIMA	1,966	5,105	289	28

TOTAL POPULATION NUMBERS 1990-1992

COUNTY	APRIL 1990	APRIL 1991	APRIL 1992	% CHANGE
CHELAN	52,250	53,200	54,600	4.50%
DOUGLAS	26,205	27,500	27,900	6.47%
KITTITAS	26,705	27,400	27,800	4.02%
YAKIMA	188,823	190,500	193,900	2.69%

All Data from Washington State Office of Financial Management.

The strong in-migration is due to the quality of life values in eastern Washington.

Change in Local Employment Patterns

The State of Washington Employment Security reports for employment and wages are published on a one-year delay. The employment data for 1991 is the most recent available. The economic impact area for the Wenatchee National Forest is Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties. This report covers those sectors that are directly affected by Forest Service activities.

The following sectors are those economic sectors directly affected by Forest Service activities.

	Covered 1991 Employment	% Change 89-91	Average 1991 Wages	% Change in Real Wages 89-91
Wenatchee Impact Area (Total)	129,314	+ 10.24%	\$ 16,686.56	- 0.13%
Manufacturing Lumber & Wood Products	1,934	.99%	\$ 22,824.72	6.05%
Paper & Allied Products	692	8.46%	\$ 28,436.42	13.91%
Retail Trade Eating & Drinking Places	7,462	4.28%	\$ 7,094.61	6.13%
Services Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,808	7.85%	\$ 8,594.03	7.27%
Amusement & Recreation Services	1,770	9.94%	\$ 838.79	0.79%

Individual County Trends for the following sectors show the following changes:

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Covered 1991 Employment	% Change 89-91	Average 1991 Wages	% Change in Real Wages 89-91
CHELAN	32,026	+ 14.56%	\$ 18,008.09	- 0.24%
DOUGLAS	8,303	20.77	\$ 13,991.33	4.11%
KITTITAS	9,249	7.81%	\$ 16,802.03	3.49%
YAKIMA	81,466	8.04%	\$ 16,456.69	0.45%

MANUFACTURING - LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS

COUNTY	Covered 1991 Employment	% Change 89-91	Average 1991 Wages	% Change in Real Wages 89-91
CHELAN	172	52.75%	\$ 18,255.81	12.41%
DOUGLAS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KITTITAS	169	11.98%	\$ 22,757.40	7.42%
YAKIMA	1,593	17.22	\$ 23,325.17	7.37%

Individual County Trends for the following sectors show the following changes:

MANUFACTURING - PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS

COUNTY	Covered 1991 Employment	% Change 89-91	Average 1991 Wages	% Change in Real Wages 89-91
CHELAN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DOUGLAS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KITTITAS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
YAKIMA	692	8.46%	\$ 28,436.42	13.91%

RETAIL TRADE - EATING AND DRINKING PLACES

COUNTY	Covered 1991 Employment	% Change 89-91	Average 1991 Wages	% Change in Real Wages 89-91
CHELAN	1,858	6.54%	\$ 7,071.58	5.04%
DOUGLAS	464	5.45%	\$ 6,153.02	4.39%
KITTITAS	1,122	14.37%	\$ 7,219.25	3.03%
YAKIMA	4,018	0.68%	\$ 7,179.13	7.60%

SERVICES - HOTELS AND OTHER LODGING PLACES

COUNTY	Covered 1991 Employment	% Change 89-91	Average 1991 Wages	% Change in Real Wages 89-91
CHELAN	881	6.02%	\$ 8,801.42	6.03%
DOUGLAS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
KITTITAS	256	20.19%	\$ 6,781.25	6.45%
YAKIMA	671	26.91%	\$ 9,013.41	10.85%

SERVICES - AMUSEMENT AND RECREATION SERVICES

COUNTY	Covered 1991 Employment	% Change 89-91	Average 1991 Wages	% Change in Real Wages 89-91
CHELAN	504	36.96%	\$ 9,069.44	11.74%
DOUGLAS	65	26.97%	\$ 10,246.15	0.93%
KITTITAS	372	16.40%	\$ 5,655.91	15.51%
YAKIMA	671	26.91%	\$ 9,013.41	7.79%

These numbers need to be carefully interpreted. They represent employees and their wages that are covered by State unemployment insurance. Retail trade and service industries utilize many part-time workers, thereby bringing down average wage scales. In good economic times, these workers tend to work more hours and, therefore, average wages rise. In times of recession, they tend to work less hours. The year 1991 was generally a year of good economic expansion in eastern Washington.

The following table shows trends in employment and income by major economic sectors for the Wenatchee National Forest Impact Area and the State of Washington:

SECTOR	% Change 89-90		% Change 90-91	
	Wenatchee Impact Area	State of Washington	Wenatchee Impact Area	State of Washington
AG, FOR & Fish	38.30%	(35.42%)	7.68%	(- 2.27%)
Mining	1.79%	(- 2.54%)	2.91%	(+ 1.33%)
Construction	1.67%	(10.41%)	7.50%	(- 0.35%)
Manufacturing	5.18%	(2.11%)	0.42%	(- 5.06%)
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.45%	(4.92%)	2.98%	(- 0.52%)
Wholesale Trade	2.11%	(4.02%)	2.09%	(+ 0.38%)
Retail Trade	3.31%	(3.75%)	0.57%	(+ 0.52%)
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.77%	(3.51%)	3.99%	(+ .30%)
Services	6.82%	(7.78%)	3.47%	(+ 4.38%)
Government	4.06%	(4.76%)	4.88%	(+ 3.83%)

Numbers in parentheses are for the State of Washington.

The employment numbers for the Wenatchee National Forest Impact Area show a slight decrease due to a substantial drop in agricultural employment, while other sectors showed substantial growth. The fastest growing sector was construction, which is the result of the continued in-migration into eastern Washington from the urban area in the Puget Sound.

Changes in Lifestyles, Attitudes, Beliefs, or Values

The population of the Wenatchee National Forest Impact Area continued to grow dramatically as urban residents continued to move here for its quality of life. As noted in last year's report, the migration can be characterized as Returnees, Retirees, and Urban Transplants. Continued strong in-migration has now raised housing prices in eastern Washington to nearly the same level as Puget Sound. This should slow migration of Retirees and Urban Transplants because these groups are generally looking for lower cost of living areas.

There have been additional businesses moving into eastern Washington for the same quality of life reasons that individuals are moving. With the development of tele-communication technology, individuals and businesses whose work is not tied to a specific location have been moving here. Realtors report that many sales representatives that have the flexibility to choose their business locations are moving to eastern Washington. Workers are concerned about their families living in urban areas while they are traveling on business.

Changes in Forest Contribution to Forest Products Industry

The following table shows Forest Service harvest volume and volume sold.

VOLUME IN MILLION BOARD FEET		
FISCAL YEAR	VOLUME HARVESTED	VOLUME SOLD
87	221	160
88	186	154
89	197	76
90	173	225
91	136	44
92	95	27

The volume sold in 1990 reflects the requirements of Section 318 of the Federal Budget Act. The significant drop in volume sold in 1991 is the result of the recent court and agency decisions on the management of northern spotted owl habitat. The current timber volume under contract is 75 million board feet.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

Monitoring Item—Resource Budgets

The goal is to provide funding levels necessary to achieve outputs in the Forest Plan. The monitoring question is:

1. *Are the budgets received adequate for achieving the objectives described/projected in the Forest Plan?*

The following table reflects the program budgets on the Wenatchee National Forest since 1990. The budget request for these budgets were prepared prior to the completion of the Forest Plan:

PROGRAM AREA	FISCAL YEAR 1990	FISCAL YEAR 1991	FISCAL YEAR 1992
Recreation	\$ 2,988,000	\$ 3,027,000	\$ 3,739,000
Fisheries	\$ 290,000	\$ 520,000	\$ 956,000
Threatened & Endangered Species	\$ 215,000	\$ 244,000	\$ 255,000
Wildlife	\$ 110,000	\$ 244,000	\$ 279,000
Range	\$ 145,000	\$ 198,000	\$ 149,000
Timber	\$ 7,201,000	\$ 7,944,000	\$ 7,096,000
Other Resource Support to Timber	\$ 1,315,000	\$ 973,000	\$ 1,326,000
Watershed & Air	\$ 3,052,000	\$ 1,772,000	\$ 1,075,000
Minerals & Geology	\$ 137,000	\$ 188,000	\$ 161,000
Lands	\$ 499,000	\$ 1,257,000	\$ 4,347,000
Facilities & Transportation	\$ 3,298,000	\$ 5,005,000	\$ 6,200,000
Protection, State & Private Forestry	\$ 3,236,000	\$ 3,357,000	\$ 5,692,000
General Administration	\$ 2,782,000	\$ 2,691,000	\$ 4,372,000
Overhead Assessments	\$ 3,037,000	\$ 3,111,000	\$ 3,321,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 28,305,000	\$ 30,531,000	\$ 38,968,000

The budgets reflect emergency Federal action and shifts in Congressional funding. For example, the large expenditure in Watershed and Air in 1990 reflects the cleanup and rehabilitation after the floods of 1990. The large expenditures in the Lands budget represents the land purchases in the Alpine Lakes Management Area.

The following table represents the Wenatchee National Forest's budget requests to implement the Forest Plan. The 1993 budget request is the first to be directly linked to the Forest Plan:

PROGRAM AREA	1993 BUDGET REQUEST	1994 BUDGET REQUEST	1995 BUDGET REQUEST
Recreation	\$ 6,371,000	\$ 6,421,000	\$ 7,082,000
Fisheries	\$ 612,000	\$ 527,000	\$ 1,268,000
Threatened & Endangered Species	\$ 858,000	\$ 797,000	\$ 1,349,000
Wildlife	\$ 749,000	\$ 668,000	\$ 1,132,000
Range	\$ 412,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 1,164,000
Timber	\$ 8,684,000	\$ 6,051,000	\$ 5,812,000
Other Resource Support to Timber	\$ 1,363,000	\$ 612,000	\$ 1,251,000
Watershed & Air	\$ 3,738,000	\$ 790,000	\$ 1,226,000
Minerals & Geology	\$ 398,000	\$ 398,000	\$ 566,000
Lands	\$ 986,000	\$ 708,000	\$ 1,000,000
Facilities & Transportation	\$ 9,121,000	\$ 6,652,000	\$ 6,990,000
Protection, State & Private Forestry	\$ 3,436,000	\$ 4,204,000	\$ 5,859,000
General Administration	\$ 3,832,000	\$ 3,180,000	\$ 3,180,000
Overhead Assessments	\$ 4,489,000	\$ 4,218,000	\$ 3,870,000
TOTAL REQUESTS	\$ 42,049,000	\$ 35,641,000	\$ 41,749,000

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.

GENERAL MONITORING OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Monitoring Item—Standard and Guidelines General

The goal is to ensure implementation and validation of Plan standards and guidelines is effective at accomplishing Forest goals, outputs, and the desired future condition. The monitoring questions are:

1. *Are Forest Plan standards and guidelines being implemented?*
2. *Are implemented standards and guidelines achieving the expected results?*

To ensure that standards and guidelines have been implemented as intended, a variety of site-specific projects were reviewed during the summer of 1992. An interdisciplinary team, consisting of the Forest Supervisor, Deputy forest Supervisor, Forest Group Leaders and others with specific expertise conducted reviews on each of the six Ranger Districts.

Site-specific projects included: noxious weed control in a wilderness area, wildlife neotropical bird study, two fish habitat improvement projects, a grazing allotment, two road management projects, two timber sales, a broadcast burn, and several recreation projects. The recreation projects included: boat dock installation, five campground construction or vegetation management projects, six trail or trailhead projects, one recreation residence area, and two recreation dispersed sites.

The reviews revealed that the Ranger Districts are doing a good job of implementing Forest Plan standards and guidelines in project design. Environmental documents are generally increasing in quality, partially due to the emphasis placed on NEPA training. However, there are still some areas needing improvement in documents including development of subbasin riparian objectives and site-specific Best Management Practices.

Specific areas requiring more attention include the following:

- a. Heavy use at some dispersed recreation sites is impacting riparian protection zones through loss of vegetation, improper human waste disposal, and litter.
- b. There appears to be some reluctance to fully implement the General Forest (GF) prescription even though site-specific issues appear to be similar to those issues identified, and consequences disclosed, in the Forest Plan. This may result in the inability to meet projected outputs for this allocation. It may also indicate that the GF prescription may need to be amended as a result of emerging issues.
- c. Although both aging water developments and fences on grazing allotments need replacing, allocated budgets have not been provided for this work.
- d. There is a lack of dollars needed to accomplish the backlog timber harvest residue disposal program on the Forest particularly with reduction in timber sales which previously provided the brush disposal funds.
- e. Managers need to look at the possible need for a new allocation for natural versus reservoir bodies of water to determine if a new prescription is needed for reservoirs.
- f. A workshop on campground management planning may be needed to help resolve concerns over developed site vegetation and hazard tree management.

Recommendations and actions include:

No additional action is necessary except to continue monitoring as scheduled.
Recommendations, where indicated, have been made above in the appropriate functional monitoring items.

FOREST PLANNING UPDATE

FOREST PLAN APPEALS

As reported last year, Decisions by the Chief of the Forest Service have been rendered on 18 of the 20 appeals received on the Wenatchee Forest Plan. The Chief has not issued decisions on the Yakima Indian Nation or the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Appeals. Appeal issues in both of these appeals were identical. The Forest Service is still working with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to reach settlement agreement on appeal issues addressing anadromous fish concerns. The Wenatchee Forest is working with the Yakima Indian Nation on a Memorandum of Understanding which will address issues raised by the Nation. If a full agreement is reached it is hoped that the formal appeals will be settled.

FOREST PLAN LITIGATION

Last year's report included information on two lawsuits filed by interest groups involving the implementation of the Wenatchee Forest Plan.

The Northwest Motorcycle Association litigation resulted in dismissal of the suit by the Eastern District Court of Washington. The Judge ruled that the Forest Plan and the subsequent closing of some trails to Motorbikes did not violate the Washington Wilderness Act. Northwest Motorcycle Association has appealed this decision to the Ninth Circuit Court, and the appeal decision is pending.

The litigation filed by a coalition of eight environmental organizations challenging the adequacy of the Forest Service Chief's decisions on the merits of Forest Plan appeals involving the Wenatchee, Okanogan, and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualime National Forest has been resolved and dismissed. As a result of the settlement the Forest Service will address a list of specific issues when preparing NEPA documents for projects which implement the Forest Plan.

In 1992, two additional lawsuits were filed. The first was filed by Pilchuck Audubon Society contending that the Forest Plans on the Wenatchee, Okanogan, and Colville National forests failed to assess the environmental effects associated with forest health problems. At this time, no action has been taken by the Court on plaintiff's request for temporary restraining orders and permanent injunctions.

The second lawsuit, filed on behalf of Save Chelan Alliance, challenged implementation of the Wenatchee Forest Plan and a Decision Notice for a Timber sale on the Chelan Ranger District. Plaintiff alleged that effects of timber harvest on the Lake Chelan watershed and the Community of Chelan were not adequately addressed in the Forest Plan FEIS or in the timber sale Environmental Assessment. Negotiations with Save Chelan Alliance has resulted in a dismissal of the lawsuit, with restrictions on most new timber harvest activities until an environmental analysis is completed. The future environmental analysis will reexamine management allocations scheduled in the Forest Plan, and the effects of those allocations that are available for timber harvest on the Lake Chelan environment and on the local Chelan community.

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

As explained in last year's report, the first amendment to the Wenatchee Forest Plan is considered to be the October 3, 1990, notice in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Agriculture. This notice adopted the recommendations of the Interagency Scientific Committees Report, and establishing Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Conservation Areas. Forest managers have been managing the Forest under that direction, but formal adjustments have not been made to the Forest Plan due to continue changes in Spotted Owl management direction. The "Forest Conference", the Court decision requiring a supplement to the March, 1992, "Managing the Northern Spotted Owl FEIS", and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Final Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl", will have major effects on the analysis and formal adjustment to the Wenatchee Forest Plan. Currently, no timber sales are allowed within Northern Spotted Owl Habitat, and annual timber sale levels have been reduced.

The Pacific Northwest Region Office began working on a Regional Forest Plan Adjustment Strategy in 1992. However, due to the uncertainties, explained above, Plan adjustments have been delayed.

In 1992, there were four amendments made to the Wenatchee Forest Plan:

1. The first amendment was to correct wording, omissions, and typographical errors discovered in the Plan and to make two additions resulting from appeal decisions. The additions were changes in the definition of wet area wording and inclusion of range condition definitions.
2. A second amendment was to relocate approximately 300 acres, from Management Area ST-1 (Scenic Travel, Retention) to RE-1 (Developed Recreation) to accommodate an expansion of a ski area in the Snoqualmie Pass area. This amendment was later reversed by the Regional Forester in his decision on the merits of appeals.
3. A third amendment was an exception amendment to the Forest Plan allowing a Visual Quality modification on 5 acres within the RE-3 allocation at the base of Slide Ridge, in the Lake Chelan Drainage. This Change allows Chelan County to construct a flood control channel.
4. The last amendment to the Plan in 1992 was to update the Forest Plan Appendix A Activity Schedule. In the future the schedules will be revised and mailed to the public, but an amendment is not required.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Public insight on Forest Service implementation of the Wenatchee Forest Plan is a valuable tool for forest managers. As we proceed with implementation of the Plan we hope you will let us know your thoughts and concerns.

**WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

R E S P O N S E F O R M

We would appreciate receiving your comments by September 30, 1993

The following are my thoughts on the Monitoring Report:

The following are my thoughts on current or proposed projects:

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

My thoughts on pending amendments to the Forest Plan (see page 55):

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Use this space for any additional comments:

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